





## THE CHINA MAIL.

During the cruise of H. M. S. *Porpoise* in the Bering Straits last autumn she fell in with the sealing schooner *Moray*, on board of which the head gunner, Mr. A. L. O'Brien, was suffering from an abscess in his head. On 28th July Mr. O'Brien was taken on board the *Porpoise*, was operated on by Surgeon Keays, and landed at Hakodate completely cured on 28th August. From Hakodate, Mr. O'Brien was sent by the British Consul to Yokohama, and he was afterwards sent to Victoria, B.C., on board the steamer *Victoria*. In the course of an interview, he told the *Victoria Daily Times* reporter how he was treated on board the *Porpoise*. He said he wished to record his thanks for the kind and humane treatment he received from the officers and men of the *Porpoise*. "Commander Burr," he said, "is an excellent officer, generally beloved by his men. First Lieutenant E. H. Grafton is a thorough gentleman, liberal in his views, a man who believes in humanity being shown to his fellow-men and a man that it is a pleasure to work under." He speaks in high terms of praise of the other officers, engineers and warrant officers. He says the ship's crew are a fine lot of men, and a credit to the British navy. The remainder of Mr. O'Brien's statement runs as follows:—

"At Behring's island the ship had cargo practice, and the work done was excellent. They also had a night drill with search lights. Captain J. Bishop is the champion boxer. He has shot a boat out of the water, and has a couple of boats went ashore on a fishing expedition and a gale came up. It was too rough to land a boat or launch one from the ship so high was the surf. After two days G. Trabill, a quartermaster, took a line, and swimming through the surf with it brought the boat off. It was the greatest exhibition of swimming I ever saw. The man is a giant in strength and very courageous. I witnessed the drift of the marines, in which they have reached great perfection. It was just like machinery to see their evolutions. They were all excellent marksmen. The high efficiency of the officers and men on the *Porpoise* is a compliment to the British navy."

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